(No. 154.)

Circular Letter to the Clergy.

(To be read only in the parishes where there are knights of labor.)

ARCHBISHOPRIC OF QUEBEC,
5th April 1887.

SIR,

In September 1884, the Holy See, consulted by me on the society of the knights of labor, condemned it under pain of grievous sin, and charged the Bishops to deter their diocesans therefrom, as I did in my Circular Letter (No. 131) of the 2nd February 1885.

After representations made by their Lordships the Bishops of the United States, the Holy See has suspended, until further orders, the effect of that sentence.

In consequence, I authorize the confessors of this diocese to absolve the knights of labor, on the following conditions, which it is your bounden duty to explain to them, and to make them observe:

1o That they confess and sincerely repent the grievous sin, which they committed by not obeying the decree of September 1884;

2o That they be ready to abandon this society, so soon as the Holy See shall ordain it;

3o That they sincerely and explicitly promise absolutely to avoid all that may either favor masonic and other condemned, societies, or violate the laws either of justice, charity or of the state ;

4o That they abstain from every promise and from every oath, by which they would bind themselves either to obey blindly all the orders of the directors of the society, or keep absolute secrecy even towards lawful authorities. (See " Discipline," p. 217.)

In behalf of those penitents only, and by virtue of an indult, I prolong the time of the paschal communion until the feast of the Ascension inclusively.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my sincere attachment.

E.-A. CARD. TASCHEREAU,
ARCH. OF QUEBEC.